

Message Text

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60

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /060 W

----- 022641

R 241152Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6377

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 10961

EO 11652: ADS

TAGS: EARI, IV

SUB: AIR IVOIRE TO BE MERGED INTO IVORIAN AIR FORCE

REF: ABIDJAN 10960

1. THIS MESSAGE REPEATS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION THE SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS BY DAO ABIDJAN ON THEIR TRANSMISSION OF THE DETAILS OF THE PROJECTED AIR IVOIRE MERGER, WHICH IS ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE REFTEL.

2. QUOTE: DURING THE 6TH DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF IVORY COAST CONGRESS HELD IN ABIDJAN (IN OCTOBER) SEVERAL REFERENCES WERE MADE TO FUTURE IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNAL AVIATION. THE MERGER OF AIR IVOIRE AND THE MILITARY AVIATION GROUP IS IN KEEPING WITH THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT TO THE OFFICER CORPS OF AUGUST 1974 CALLING FOR MORE MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT, MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TASKS DEALING WITH THE POLICE AND INTERNAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION (SECRETARY OF STATE AT INTERIOR), LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AS SUB-PREFETS, AND MARITIME AFFAIRS (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NAVY) THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP IS AVIATION. MOST LIKELY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL COULIBALY, PRESENT AIR FORCE CHIEF, WILL HEAD THE NATIONAL AVIATION ORGANIZATION WHEN FORMED

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AND THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, HE

WILL BE APPOINTED SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AVIATION, A
POSITION THAT WILL HAVE TO BE CREATED. UNQUOTE.
SMIT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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